

Leicester, Mass'ty Sept. 8/63.

Dear friend Webb.

I am very much obliged to you - we all are - for this last capital photograph of yourself, and for the stereoscopic view of your ^(rec'd. last week, with your note of Aug. 3^d - by hand of Consul Hammond.) house. We are very glad to see these last, and it almost seems as if I had been to the house. Several things which we could not well make out at first became very distinct when the cards were placed in a stereoscope. I imagine you built on the piece in the rear which contains your library, & as it is more recent than the rest evidently & the window of a more modern design. The 'weather slating' is sometimes used with us, - slated roofs very common, almost universal indeed in cities & large towns. We used to depend long within my remembrance - upon the quarries of Wales for all our slate; but it is now obtained of an excellent & handsome quality, on our own soil. How do you get to & fro? Are you helped by a Railway? Boston has more than doubled in population, and ^{increased in} ~~population~~ business tenfold at least, since the introduction of Railroad. Seven great lines diverge from her suburbs. Each of these has spurs or branches, ramifying into all parts of her populous surrounding country, giving her a business population far exceeding the N^o. of her inhabitants proper. But even these Railways are not alone depended ^{on}, Horse Railroads enter the city, to the very centre, from all directions & by every principal avenue. They extend to all the villages within six miles, & some as far as ten. Omnibuses are now entirely confined to city travel, and not one is seen where formerly were a dozen. But this is too much of a digression. I wish I could send you, or had the prospect of being able to send you, a stereoscopic view of my house. We are rather too far from the artists to have this done handily. Possibly there are those in Worcester (6 miles from us, a city of some 25,000 inhabitants) who take such views; but I am not sure.

Stereoscopic pictures have been the rage here for several years past. Great numbers are imported, and all places of note amongst us are to be had in this way. Works of Art, as well as buildings & views are also thus copied. With us, in the country, for everything like a view of our premises, or any local, stationary object, we have to depend upon the travelling daguerrestylists, who are quite numerous. ^{Such a one} ~~They~~ had a saloon, 20 to 25 long, & perhaps 8 broad, divided into different apartments, & with ~~these~~ ^{he} proceeds from town to town, & village to village, wherever the roads are good, going over even considerable hills. When ready to depart ~~they~~ ^{he} hires men, with horses or oxen, to take his establishment along. ~~They~~ enter a village, having first secured a temporary site, upon which ~~they~~ ^{he} "locates" (to use an Americanism), & stays while business is good. One has just departed from Leicester who ~~remained~~ remained here some 8 months or more, the place being "convenient to winter in" for the man and his family. This man took some pictures of our house & its immediate surroundings - 2 winter views & 2 summer views. My wife proposes to send you one of these, as you so kindly say you would like something of the kind, and I shall look out for some person to convey it. It is an ambrotype picture, I believe, - on a thin metallic plate, a glass in front & placed in a light, inexpensive but neat metallic frame, - not a suitable thing to go by mail exactly, but not cumbersome for a private hand. I should be pleased to send it to you, and wonder if Richard would recognise it. - Every one is struck with the strong resemblance between yourself & Theodore Parker. It is common to hear one say at once, "Theodore Parker" on looking at your Carte. Edmund Quincy exhibits his as a likeness of T.P., which is generally credited until he explains. - The value of the stereoscopic pictures is increased by your explanatory remarks as to the different rooms, &c. -

The Times containing full report of the debate on the motion of Mr. Roebuck came duly to hand. I am very glad to get it indeed, & to possess it. It is astonishing how much deception, misrepresentation, & fraudulent statement can be got into one speech of the length of Roebuck's. By this mail I have sent you an Evening Post - containing a recent letter of

President Lincoln, which had been anticipated several days with a great deal of interest, & has disappointed only the "Copperheads" and traitors. If our Northern, our National Cause, is ruined and lost, it will be ^{by} the means of these Northern Scoundrels, who are now stirring up hell itself to defeat the Government, in its measures of Emancipation and the Employment of Colored Troops, and by the intrigues, and powerful help otherwise to the Confederate States, of England and France. Napoleon is showing his hand ^{at} last. I trust he will ^{ere long} bitterly rue the day he ever thrust it into American affairs. In the paper I send you are some good articles on that topic.

The Speech of Gerrit Smith to which you refer, I either have never seen, or it is the one which appeared in the Liberator of June 12th last (on the first page) - i.e. a large extract from it. Garrison gave it an editorial comment of over half a column. The Standard also published it - (June 6th, first page) - and subsequently copied ^(June 29th) Mr. Garrison's comments, but I believe made none of its own. I have no doubt that Garrison gives the just interpretation of ~~his~~ G. Smith's meaning, and what Mr. Smith supposed his hearers would generally see to be such. But it was not expressed by Mr. Smith with sufficient clearness, and Mr. Bronson (whose article I have not seen) may have misrepresented it; - very likely has, for he has no liking for the Abolitionists, and would be glad to find ^{of them} one eating his words, or sinking the question as a moral one, or throwing any direct or indirect censure upon his old associates. But, in fact, no man has come out for Emancipation, for thorough unsparring work with Slavery, on political & national grounds, than O. A. Bronson himself. - You were, I think, a little too fast in censuring G. Smith, and how could you have overlooked what the Standard & Liberator had said about it?

In the Roebuck debate nothing offended me so much as the position taken by Palmerston and the tone & style [contemptuous & sneering] in which he spoke of ^{the} American War, & our affairs generally. When the pirate-ship-builders ^{and out-fitters} can sit & listen to such speeches as that from the very head of the British Cabinet, they need ask or want no further encouragement or spur in their mean, cowardly business. They may be pretty sure of complete immunity in it, so far as Lord Palmerston goes.

My family are all as well as usual. I have a letter today from my Son Edward. He was at Cincinnati, on Gunboat business, but returning post-haste to Cairo, - very well. I have had very indifferent health this summer though better ^{of late} than in June. Is it a fact that Miss Estlin is in Switzerland? With sincere regards to all yr-family

I am,

Very affectionately, Yours

Saml. May Jr

I hope you have rec'd. mine of Aug 21st, enclosing 4 more photographs - the completion of your order, so far as obtainable. - I will let you know what you owe me, in next account.

As I find the weight allows it, I send a slip from the "Standard" of G. Smith's speech, &c.